Our apprehensions regarding Pakistan's clandestine procurement of nuclear technology, materials and components from a number of countries for its nuclear weapon programme have been confirmed by all available evidence. Government continues to maintain a constant vigil on this as well as on other developments having a bearing on the country's security.

IPKF Personnel killed in Sri Lanka

366. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the number of soldiers and other personnel of the Indian Peace Keeping Force who died in encounter with the LTTE in Sri Lanka during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): During the six month period ending 25 April, 1988, 229 IPKF personnel were killed in the operatons in Sri Lanka.

Putting up of cases before the Central Administrative Tribunal

367. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure of putting up cases before the Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) what assistance and guidance are being provided to employees so as to file cases before the Central Administrative Tribunal; and

(c) what is the main idea of Government to establish such Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Central Administrative Tribunal follows the Board System for putting up cases in the Tribunal as is the practice in High Courts.

(b) The Central Administrative Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1987, issued by the Central Government and circulated to all Ministries/Departments, contained details guidelines for the employees in regard to filing cases before the Central Administrative Tribunal.

(c) The main objective behind setting up of Central Administrative Tribunal was to provide speedy and inexpensive relief to the Central Government employees in respect of service matters cases.

Time limit for disposal of Pension cases

368. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases which have been disposed of by the Department of Pensions during the last three years;

(b) whether the Department of Pensions keep a time schedule for disposal of a case after a complaint of non-receipt of pension or partial receipt of pension is made to it;

(c) if so, what is the time limit; and

(d) if not, what is the procedure followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare deals with formulation of policy relating to pension and other retirement benefits for Central Govt. employees, but the system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. The action to redress the complaints has, therefore, to be taken by respective pension sanctioning/disbursing authorities. Under the circumstances it is not practicable to fix

a time-frame for the disposal of the complaints. However, every endeavour is made to ensure expenditious settlement by monitoring the complaints sent to the concerned pension sanctioning/disbursing authorities.

Instructions were issued in January, 87 making the Heads of Departments/offices accountable for strict compliance of the Govt. orders for ensuring authorisation and payment of pension and gratuity, provisional or final, by the date of retirement on superannuation. The retiring employee who did not receive pension payment order/gratuity payment order on the date of retirement were also asked to bring such cases to the notice of this Ministry. Since April, 87, 25 cases were brought to the notice of the Deptt. of Pension and P. W. out of which 19 have been settled.

Casual labourers in Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, Bombay

369. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual labourers working in Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, Bombay;

(b) whether they have fulfilled the conditions for absorption in regular posts; if so, the details of their total service till date;

(c) whether they have been regularised; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are proposing to regularise their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The number of Casual Labourers working in BARC as on 1-4-1988 is 121.

(b) and (c) The Casual Labourers are engaged in certain maintenance jobs and work connected with experimental field stations. Regularisation of Casual Labourers will depend upon vacancies of the appropriate trade and their satisfying the prescribed norms regarding suitability for regular employment.

(d) Yes, Sir. Regularisation of Casual Labourers is a continuous process. Such of the Casual Labourers who satisfy the prescribed conditions will be regularised after completing the required formalities.

Indian ships detained by Pakistan

370. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 147 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1988 and state whether the Indian ships hitherto detained by Pakistan have since been released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): No, Sir. The matter is still under the consideration of the Government of Pakistan.

Financial and other losses incurred in Sri Lanka by India

371. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our peace keeping efforts in Sri Lanka are costing more and more day by day in terms of money as well as forces;

(b) if so, what are the up-to-date details of (i) Financial losses and (ii) loss of personnel of our defence forces;

(c) how long Government propose to bear these losses; and

(d) whether any other alternative has been considered by Government to minimise the above losses; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (d) Upto 25 April, 1988, 417 IPKF personnel had been killed and 1298 injured in its operations in Sri Lanka. The detailed expenditure incurred so far in the operations, both direct and indirect, has not been computed.